

# Measure Up

Spring 2010

Assessment news for eighth-grade teachers



## Did you know?

- **NAEP 2011 in 8th grade will include assessments in mathematics, reading, science, and writing.**
- **State and district mathematics results for NAEP 2009 have been released.**
- **Results for the NAEP 2009 reading assessment will be released soon.**

## Thank You!

Thank you to all schools that participated in the NAEP 2010 assessment and helped to make it a success. NAEP 2010 included assessments in civics, geography, and U.S. history. It also included a mathematics special study at grades 4 and 8, and a writing computer-based pilot at grades 8 and 12.

The NAEP 2010 grade 8 assessment was offered to a sample of 34,200 public school students at 770 different schools.

## NAEP-TIMSS International Linking Study

The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) provides reliable and timely data on the mathematics and science achievement of U.S. fourth- and eighth-grade students compared to that of students in other countries.

In 2011, NCES will conduct a special study to link the mathematics and science results of NAEP and TIMSS.

The NAEP-TIMSS 2011 International Linking Study in grade 8 mathematics and science is an exciting study in which NAEP scores can be placed on the TIMSS mathematics and science scales to provide a comparison between states and about 50 participating countries. NAEP and

TIMSS will both be administering assessments in grade 8 in 2011, enabling a link between the two assessments.

The national and state NAEP mathematics results will be released approximately 6 months after the assessment, and science results will be released approximately 12 months after the assessment. The international linking study results are planned for release following the TIMSS release in late 2012. States will receive both mathematics and science projected TIMSS scores at this time.

More information on TIMSS can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/timss/>, and information about NAEP is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.



To access the  
writing framework,  
please visit  
<http://www.nagb.org>  
and select  
"Publications."

**Students will respond to text, video, or animated prompts on the computer and listen to audio prompts via earbuds, which will be provided.**

## NAEP 2011: Writing

### Facts About NAEP Writing Computer-Based Assessment

A writing computer-based assessment will be offered to students at grade 8 in some schools sampled for NAEP 2011.

Schools will need to provide a room with flat desks or tables.

NAEP brings in all equipment, including the following:

- Individual laptops for each student
- Mice and mouse pads
- Earbuds for all students
- Power strips and tape to secure electrical cords
- Equipment for secure NAEP-specific wireless network

Computer-based assessments are provided on NAEP laptop computers.

- Each student is assigned an individual laptop.
- A tutorial will introduce students to the assessment application and tools.
- Some writing tasks will include stimulus materials, including color photographs, newspaper articles, poems, and multimedia stimuli such as short videos and audio.
- Students will be given a brochure with ideas for planning and reviewing their writing. Students also will be given a pencil and paper to plan their writing, or they can plan their writing on the computer. Only responses entered into the computer will be scored.

Some universal design features and optional settings are included as follows:

- Earbuds for all students and a Speak function for each computer that can read aloud all or selected portions of the directions, tasks, and stimulus material
- Font size adjustable up to 48 point (letters about 2/3 inch tall)
- Yellow highlighter tool for marking text in writing task
- Countdown timer to track time during writing tasks and background questions, with option of hiding timer
- Spell check and other common word processing tools
- A Help Button to assist the student with the use of these and other features

## Writing Prompts

Select items from past NAEP assessments are released to the public and will not be used again on future assessments. The NAEP Questions Tool (NQT) is a database of more than 2,000 questions, in nine subject areas, from past assessments that have been released to the public.

The NQT allows you to search for questions by subject, grade, difficulty, and other characteristics; view student

responses; create customized reports; and more. You can also view scoring guides and performance data, such as the percentage of students nationwide and in your state who answered a question correctly.

You can access the NAEP Questions Tool directly by visiting <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>.



## Sample Writing Prompts

1. Open the envelope labeled E that you have been given. Take out the letter from Rina and read it. Rina, who wrote the letter, is coming to a school in America for the first time and needs to know what a backpack is.

Write a letter back to Rina. In your letter, include a clear description of a backpack and explain in detail what she should keep in it. Remember, the more information Rina has, the better prepared she'll be to start eighth grade.

2. Imagine that one of your friends never wants to try anything new. Whether it is a question of what to eat, what to wear, what to do, what to read, or what to watch, your friend always chooses what is familiar – “the same old thing.”

Write a letter to your friend convincing him or her to try something new. Be sure to describe what your friend should try and explain why your friend would like it.

3. Imagine that you wake up one morning to discover that you have become the President of the United States. Write a story about your first day as President.

**The assessment questions are designed to measure students' ability to persuade, to explain, or to convey experience.**

# What is the Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

For over three decades, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

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## If you want to...

## Visit...

<b>Learn</b> more about NAEP results	The Nation's Report Card at <a href="http://nationsreportcard.gov">http://nationsreportcard.gov</a>
<b>View</b> NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator	The National Center for Education Statistics at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states</a>
<b>Access</b> specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or student groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata</a>
<b>Find</b> information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmlsx">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmlsx</a>
<b>Download</b> a Sample Questions Booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments	The National Center for Education Statistics at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp</a>
<b>Learn</b> more about NAEP frameworks and how policy is drafted for each NAEP assessment	The National Assessment Governing Board at <a href="http://www.nagb.org">http://www.nagb.org</a>
<b>Offer</b> a comment or suggestion on NAEP	The National Center for Education Statistics mailbox at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp</a>